

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 SP-02  
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-----037996 011633Z /64

O 011620Z JUN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9784  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E.O. 11652: GDS  
STAGS: AFIN EAID EG US IBRD IMF  
SUBJECT: ARAB AID TO EGYPT

REF: (A) STATE 135986, (B) CAIRO 14005

1. CHARGE AND USAID DIRECTOR MET WITH MIN ECON ELF SAYEH JUNE 1 AND REVIEWED OUR SUGGESTION IN REF A IN MUCH SAME WAY AS WITH VICE PREIDENT REPORTED REF B. EL SAYEH SAID HE IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH IMPORTANCE OF HIS VISITING GULF PRIOR TO CG MEETING, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THERE IS A TIMING PROBLEM.

2. INITIALLY HE HAD PLANNED ON GOING TO RIYADH ON JUNE 9, FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF VISIT TO KUWAIT AND THEN ON TO PARIS MEETING. DATE EARLIER THAN JUNE 9 WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE SAUDIS BECAUSE THEYCOMPLETE THEIR NEXT FISCAL YEAR BUDGET EXERCISE ONLY ON JUNE 6.

3. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, EL SAYEH WAS INFORMED THAT ABU KHAIL WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RECEIVE EL SAYEH BEFORE JUNE 13  
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(WITH ARRIVAL EVENING JUNE 12). FURTHER, THE SAUDIS ADVISED EL SAYEH THAT THEY DID NOT THINK IT WOULD BE WISE FOR HIM TO GO TO KUWAIT IN THE INTERIM PERIOD, BECAUSE IT WOULD BE MUCHS BETTER TO SEE THE KUWAITIS AFTER TALKING TO THE SAUDIS GIVEN THE REMAINING RIGIDITY IN KUWAITI VIEWS. BUT THIS SCHEDULE MEANS THAT NO VISIT TO KUWAIT WOULD BE POSSIBLE AT ALL, AND SEEING THE SAUDIS ON JUNE 13 WOULD

MEAN THAT EL SAYEH WOULD ARRIVE IN PARIS ONLY DURING THE DAY OF THE FIRST DAY'S SESSIONS AND WOULD MISS OPPORTUNITIES FOR PREPARATION IN PARIS ON JUNE 13. IBRD VICE PRESIDENT BENJENK HAS MADE IT CLEAR TO EL SAYEHD THAT HE CONSIDERS IT CRITICAL THAT EL SAYEH BE IN PARIS FOR THE HEADS OF DELEGATION DINNER ON THE EVENING OF JUNE 13 AT THE LATEST.

4. ELF SAYEH SAID THAT JOHN GUNTHER, NOW SERVING AS AN ADVISER TO THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT, IS DUE IN CAIRO ON JUNE 9 AND WILL GO ON TO RIYADH ON JUNE 10. EL SAYEH SPECULATES THAT THE SAUDIS HAVE PUT OFF THE TIME FOR EL SAYEH'S VISIT SO THEY CAN TALK TO GUNTHER FIRST.

5. EL SAYEH WILL BE CABLING RIYADHD TODAY, ASKING THAT HIS MEETING THERE BE MOVED UP BY AT LEAST ONE DAY, PERMITTING HIM TO DEPART RIYADH THE EVENING OF JUNE 12 AND ARRIVE IN PARIS DURING THE DAY OF JUNE 13.

6. WE THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD REQUEST EMBASSY JIDDA OR USLO RIYADH TO INTERVENE WITH SAUDI, EXPLAINING CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF EL SAYEH'S PRESENCE IN PARIS ON JUNE 13, AND ATTEMPT TO GET MEETINGS WITH SAUDIS MOVED FORWARD A DAY OR TWO.

7. EL SAYEH ALSO NOTED THAT IT HAD NOW BEEN AGREED  
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THAT HE WOULD BE CARRYING A LETTER TO SAUDI OFFICIALS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER, RATHER THAN FROM THE PRESIDENT.  
MATTHEWS

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